

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NAT.916
Historic Name:	Cochituate Aqueduct
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Natick
Village/Neighborhood:	North Natick
Local No:	1-4
Year Constructed:	C 1846
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Utilities Other
Significance:	Engineering; Politics Government
Area(s):	nat.f: Cochituate Aqueduct Linear District nat.k: Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston NAT.M: Lake Cochituate Reservoir
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (1/18/1990); Nat'l Register TRA (1/18/1990)

Digital Photo
Not Yet
Available

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NRDIS
NRTRA
1/18/1990

In Area no. <u>1-1</u>	Form no. <u>1-4</u>
---------------------------	------------------------

1. Town W. Needham, Wayland, Natick, Needham, Newton, Brookline,
Address Boston (Brighton)
- Name Cochituate Aqueduct
2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____
- Present use not in service
- Present owner MDC-Boston; Wellesley;
Newton

3. Type of structure (check one)
- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| bridge | _____ | pound | _____ |
| canal | _____ | powder house | _____ |
| dam | _____ | street | _____ |
| fort | _____ | tower | _____ |
| gate | _____ | tunnel | _____ |
| kiln | _____ | wall | _____ |
| lighthouse | _____ | windmill | _____ |
| other | <u>aqueduct</u> | | |
4. Map. Draw sketch of structure location in relation to nearest cross streets, buildings, other structures, natural features. Indicate north.

See U.S.G.S. Maps

5. Description

Date 1846-48

Source Cochituate Water Board,
Report for 1851

Construction material brick, concrete,
cast iron, rock

Dimensions 14.5 miles, 5' wide x 6'4"
high

Setting variable, suburban-urban

Condition good/fair

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Jane Carolan

Organization Louis Berger & Assoc

Date January 1984

(over)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Cochituate Aqueduct was the first aqueduct built by the City of Boston. It was begun in 1846 and completed in 1848. The gravity conduit carried water from Lake Cochituate (actually a string of three lakes) to Brookline Reservoir. The conduit is 14½ miles long and slopes 3" toward Boston in every mile. Most of the conduit is constructed of brick with the exception of two tunnels, which extend through solid brick. The aqueduct, on the average, is 5' wide and 6'4" high.

The brick portion is oviform with the wide end at the bottom. Brick was laid 8" thick in hydraulic cement on a masonry embankment approximately 7' wide on top. This was then covered with earth to a depth of at least 4'.

The tunnel in Brookline is 410' long and in Newton, the tunnel is 1,150'.

An inverted siphon constructed over the Charles River carries the aqueduct on a masonry bridge which is 475' long and has three elliptical arches, each with a 30' span. This is the only place in the entire aqueduct that iron pipe was utilized.

All of the built structures on the aqueduct, which include a head house, four waste weirs, a ventilator, the siphon bridge, the terminal and distribution chambers, are constructed of the same gray granite in a restrained Classical Revival style. The ventilator is over the Newton tunnel; the waste weirs are spaced along the length of the aqueduct, generally over streams, and have associated stone lined culverts.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

Cochituate Aqueduct was built in 1846-1848. It was the first major water supply for the City of Boston and the first municipally sponsored water supply for the city.

The only section of the aqueduct still active as water supply today is from Lake Cochituate to the Morse Waste Weir in Wellesley. This is used to supply the Charles River with water when the river is below acceptable levels. The section in Newton, now owned by the City of Newton is used as a sewer; the Brookline section, owned by the City of Brookline, is used as a utilidor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Cochituate Water Board, 1851.

Manual of American Water Works, 1888, 1890.

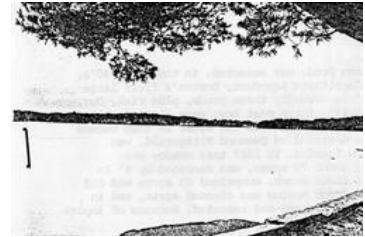
Internal Report by Desmond Fitzgerald, Eng. Sudbury Dept. to F.P. Stearns, Chief Engineer, on Cochituate & Sudbury Aqueducts, 1898.

2M-6/80

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NAT.918
Historic Name:	Lake Cochituate
Common Name:	Long Pond
Address:	
City/Town:	Natick
Village/Neighborhood:	Natick
Local No:	1-2
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Park; Utilities Other
Significance:	Engineering; Politics Government
Area(s):	NAT.M: Lake Cochituate Reservoir
Designation(s):	



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FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

MDC

PL NAT
USG NAT

NAT. 918
918

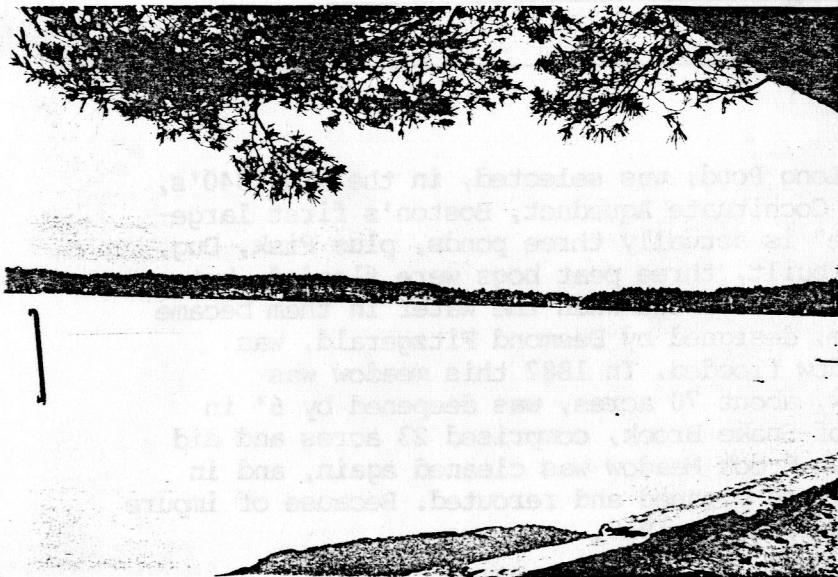
SECT A

In Area no.

M

Form no.

1-2



Draw sketch of structure location in relation to nearest cross streets, buildings, other structures, natural features. Indicate north.

See U.S.G.S. Maps

1. Town Framingham, Natick, Wayland

Address West of Mass. Route 27, South of

Mass. Route 26,

Name Lake Cochituate

Present use out of service

Present owner MDC=Boston; care & control of

Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection

3. Type of structure (check one)

bridge	_____	pound	_____
canal	_____	powder house	_____
dam	_____	street	_____
fort	_____	tower	_____
gate	_____	tunnel	_____
kiln	_____	wall	_____
lighthouse	_____	windmill	_____

other reservoir

5. Description

Date 1846-48

Source Manual of American Water Works,

1890

Construction material natural lake

Dimensions approx. 776 acres

Setting suburban

Condition good

6. Recorded by Jane Carolan

Organization Louis Berger & Associates

Date January 1984

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use Storage Reservoir, 1846

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Historical significance

Lake Cochituate, originally called Long Pond, was selected, in the mid-1840's, as the primary water source for the Cochituate Aqueduct, Boston's first large-scale public water supply. The "lake" is actually three ponds, plus Fisk, Dug, and Dudley Ponds. After the dam was built, three peat bogs were flooded, but continually caused problems during summer months when the water in them became too shallow. In 1879, a circular dam, designed by Desmond Fitzgerald, was constructed to keep one 80-acre meadow flooded. In 1887 this meadow was deepened by seven feet. Pegan Meadow, about 70 acres, was deepened by 6' in 1888. A third meadow, at the mouth of Snake Brook, comprised 23 acres and did not have to be flooded. In 1901 Pegan Brook Meadow was cleaned again, and in 1910 all feeder streams to the lake were cleaned and rerouted. Because of impure water Dudley Pond was taken out of service in 1910.

Two railroads and three roads separate the major ponds of Lake Cochituate. No longer in use as a water source, the lake is now a state park.

9. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Manual of American Water Works, 1890.

Internal Report on the Sudbury River Works by Desmond Fitzgerald, Engineer, Sudbury Department to F.P. Stearns, Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water Board, 15 June 1898.

Cochituate Water Board Annual Report, 1851.

Annual Reports of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, 1902, 1911, 1915.

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NAT.A
Historic Name:	Natick Center Historic District
Common Name:	Natick Center
Address:	
City/Town:	Natick
Village/Neighborhood:	Natick
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Commercial District; Other Industrial
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Education; Industry; Politics Government; Religion
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (12/16/1977)



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FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NAT.A

NZ 12-16-77

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
100- 116 117	A

1. Town Natick

Name of area (if any) Natick Center

3. General date or period 19th Century

4. Is area uniform (explain):

in style? Yes-Gothic and Romanesque

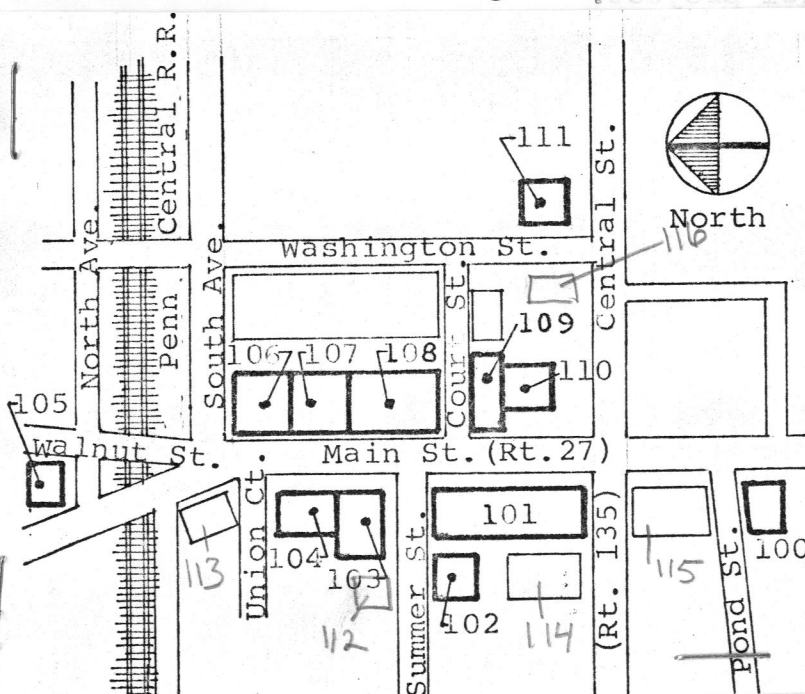
some well maintained

in condition? Yes, some in state of decline

in type of ownership? mostly private

in use? Yes, commercial

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Stephen N. Evers

Organization Mary E. Tooill *

Date August 4, 1976

* Natick Historical Commission

(over)



AUG 5 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The original town settlement in 1651 occurred south of Natick center in what is now known as South Natick. The property of the present development was mostly an area called the "Ministerial Lot of One-Hundred Acres", designated by the town as such in 1719. In 1799 the fourth meeting house of the Church and town was erected here. Later in 1812, the "100 acres" were sold for development except for a major portion of the common and three burial grounds. The Indian burial ground on Pond Street is the only one which remains today, the others being moved for commercial development. The town became a precinct or Parish in 1745, and incorporated in 1781.

With the coming of the railroad in 1835 the Nineteenth Century saw the economic growth of Natick center with the shoemaking industry being its specialty. Manufacturing, extension of public utilities and mercantile growth began an ever-growing prosperity which increased the towns population rapidly. A tragic event occurred on January 13, 1874 when the center burned to the ground with a loss of \$500,000 worth of property. It was immediately following this fire that most of the buildings were built which exist today.

The consistent quality of buildings provides harmonious style, scale, color, and texture, possessing a unity and beauty which may be identified with as the roots of Natick's development. The center is still vital as the towns commercial core, and offers an in-town growth potential through revitalization. Two buildings, the Walcott Building and Hogan's Block, are threatened by an Urban Renewal project.

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Middlesex County, Mass., Vol. 1. Philadelphia, J. W. Lewis & Co., 1890

Drake, Samuel Adams, History of Middlesex County, Mass. Boston, Estes and Lauriat, 1880

Nason, Rev. Elias, Gazeteer of Massachusetts, Boston, B. B. Russell, 1874

Bishop, Frank M., 300th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church, Natick, Ma., Boston, Lincoln and Smith Press, 1951

Map of Natick-1887-reprinted by Natick Historical Society, 1974